

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated protein which is a cell surface protein having an ability to mediate ~~of mediating~~ the transport of an amino acid into a cell and having an ability ~~of mediating~~ to mediate the incorporation of at least one amino acid selected from ~~a~~ the group consisting of leucine (Leu), isoleucine (Ile), phenylalanine (Phe), methionine (Met), tyrosine (Tyr), tryptophan (Trp), valine (Val), histidine (His) and other neutral amino acids ~~substances similar thereto~~ into the cell in an Na⁺-independent manner, wherein the cell surface protein has an amino acid sequence selected from a) to d);

a) amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2,

b) amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:4,

c) amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, wherein 1 to 40 ~~20~~ amino acid residue(s) is (are) substituted, deleted or added,

d) amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:4, wherein 1 to 40 ~~20~~ amino acid residue(s) is (are) substituted, deleted or added.

2. (Currently Amended) The protein according to claim 1, wherein the cell surface protein mediates the incorporation of at least one amino acid selected from the group consisting of leucine (Leu), isoleucine (Ile), phenylalanine (Phe), methionine (Met), tyrosine (Tyr), tryptophan (Trp), valine (Val), histidine (His) and other neutral amino acids ~~amino acid or substances similar thereto~~ into the cell by the coexistence of a 4F2hc protein classified under a type II membrane glycoprotein or a part thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) The protein according to claim 2, wherein the 4F2hc protein classified under a type II membrane glycoprotein is a protein having ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence ~~mentioned in~~ of SEQ ID NO:6 or SEQ ID NO:8, or ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence where a part of the amino acids-acid sequence thereof is deleted, substituted or added.

4. (Currently Amended) The protein according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein it the protein is a ~~protein~~ derived from a human being or rat.

5 - 6. (Cancelled)